

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the entry of this amendment, claims 15-28, 35-39, and 44-52 were pending in this application. Claims 15, 23-27, 35, 44, 48, 51, and 52 have been amended and claims 22, 39, 47, and 50 have been canceled herein. No claims have been added herein. Therefore, claims 15-21, 23-28, 35-38, 44-46, 48, 49, 51, and 52 are now pending in the application. The applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance for at least the reasons presented below.

Claims Indicated as Allowable

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indicated allowance of claims 22-27, 39, 47 and 50-52 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 15, 35, 44, and 48, upon which all other pending claims depend, have been amended to include the allowed limitations of claims 22, 39, 47, and 50 respectively. Thus, claims 2, 39, 47, and 50 have been canceled and claims 23-27, 51, and 52 have been amended to correct dependency. Furthermore, the applicants submit that these amendments change formal matters only and present no new matter. With these amendments, the applicants believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Lynch in view of Ismail

The Office Action has rejected claims 15-21, 35-38, 44-46 and 48-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,487,600 of Thomas W. Lynch (hereinafter "Lynch") in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,104,705 of Ismail et al. (hereinafter "Ismail"). As noted above, the pending independent claims have been amended to include matter indicated to be allowable. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been rendered moot and all pending claims have been placed in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 09/998,926

PATENT

Amdt. dated: December 5, 2006

Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2006

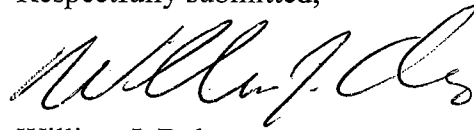
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Dated: December 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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